

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
SSM-05 DHA-02 ACDA-10 /069 W
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R 011137Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8376
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS KUWAIT 3572

USIAC

USIA FOR IOP/M

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: KU, US, XF, IS, PLO
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL AND MEDIA REACTION TO JUNE 27
ADMINISTRATION STATEMENT ON MIDDLE EAST

1. ONLY OFFICIAL KUWAITI COMMENT SO FAR ON ADMINISTRATION
STATEMENT WAS BY MINISTER FOR CABINET AFFAIRS
HUSSEIN, WHO SAID THAT THE US STATEMENT WAS "NOT
NEW." HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT US EMPHASIS OF ITS
POSITION IS "A STEP FORWARD IN THE AMERICAN ATTITUDE
AND AN INDICATION OF TRUE UNDERSTANDING OF THE ARAB
POSITION AND THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE."

2. THE TEXT OF THE ADMINISTRATION SPOKESMAN'S
STATEMENT OR PORTIONS THEREOF, HAS BEEN CARRIED IN ALL KUWAITI
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DAILIES. THE STATEMENT HAS BEEN HEADLINED IN ALL OF THESE
PAPERS, WITH FOUR ARABIC PAPERS CHARACTERIZING IT
AS EITHER A WARNING OR AN APPEAL TO ISRAEL TO
WITHDRAW FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.

3. SUMMARIES OF JUNE 29 EDITORIALS FOLLOW:

AL-WATAN ASSERTED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION STATEMENT WAS AREITERATION OF THE US POSITION, BUT WAS IMPORTANT FOR ITS TIMING AND FOR THE FACT THAT IT WAS NOT PRESENTED BEFOREHAND TO THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON. THE WRITER ALLEGED THAT THE STATEMENT WAS ISSUED TO ALLOW PRIME MINISTER BEGIN TIME TO PREPARE HIS POSITION PRIOR TO VISITING WASHINGTON IN JULY, AND ASSERTED THAT BEGIN MUST NOT COME TO WASHINGTON UNTIL HE IS "READY TO OPERATE IN THE FRAMEWORK DEFINED BY WASHINGTON." THIS WRITER ALSO THOUGHT THE ADMINISTRATION STATEMENT WOULD FORESTALL EFFORTS BY PRO-ISRAELI ELEMENTS IN THE US "TO ADD THE WEST BANK TO ISRAEL," BUT HE WARNED THAT BEGIN MIGHT TRY TO "DEFY AMERICA" IN DESPERATION.

4. AL-ANBA ASSERTED THAT THE US ANNOUNCEMENT PUT AN END TO "ZIONIST MISLEADING ATTEMPTS" TO CONVINCE THE WORLD THAT PRES. CARTER WOULD SECRETLY DOUBLECROSS THE ARABS. THIS WRITER URGED THE US, HOWEVER, TO "TAKE THE NEXT STEP" AND "HOLD A GENEVA CONFERENCE WITH ALL PARTIES ATTENDING INCLUDING THE PALESTINIANS," IN COORDINATION WITH THE SOVIETS. THIS WRITER ALSO WARNED OF A "DESPREATE ATTEMPT BY ISRAEL TO UPSET THE AMERICAN ANNOUNCEMENT" BY KEEPING POSSESISION OF THE WEST UNCLASSIFIED

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BANK.

5. AL-RAIAL-AM OPINED THAT THE "ARABS ARE HAPPY" AT THE ADMINISTRATION STATEMENT, AFTER "WAITING 30 YEARS" FOR A CHANGE IN THE "LOVERS' RELATIONSHIP" (US AND ISRAEL). BUT THIS WRITER WONDERED WHY THE STATEMENT DID NOT ELABORATE ON THE "PALESTINIAN HOMELAND", AND ASSERTED THAT THE STATEMENT WAS DESIGNED TO CALM ARABLS IN LIGHT OF THEIR REACTIONS TO THE LIKUD VICTORY IN ISRAEL.

6. AL-SIYASAH'S EDITORIAL ASSERTED THAT THE US STATEMENT CONTAINED NOTHING NEW, BUT CALLED ITS TIMING A PLOY TO CONVINCE THE WORLD THAT THE US POSITION ON THE MIDDLE EAST HAS DIVERGED FROM THAT OF ISRAEL. THE EDITORIAL ASSIGNED THREE POSSIBLE REASONS FOR THE PLOY: (1) TO PERSUADE THE SAUDIS NOT TO RAISE OIL PRICES; (2) TO ACHIEVE A POSTPONE-MENT OF THE BEGIN VISIT TO WASHINGTON; AND (3) TO LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR AN ISRAELI ADVENTURE IN SOUTH LEBANON AND A SUBSEQUENT SYRIAN-ISRAELI WAR. MAESTRONE

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Sent Date: 01-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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